(b) Discussing the importance of biodiversity for humankind, the report observes that loss of biological resources and their diversity threatens humankind's food supplies, sources of wood, medicines, energy etc.

(c) The Government recognises the importanc of biological diversity. The programmes initiated by the Government for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity include establishment of a Protected Area Network, setting up of Biosphere Reserves, conservation of fragile ecosystems such as wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs and conservation of forests along with afforestation of degraded areas to meet the subsistence needs of the people.

Notices to Polluting Industries of Delhi

2491. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supeme Court has recently directed the Delhi Government to issue notices to over 5000 polluting Industries in 22 locations in the National Capital Region for their non-cooperation in installing the pollution control devices and contributing funds for the effluent treatment plants; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the industries involved and the steps taken against these industries for the violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to publish general notice in respect of 28 industrial areas asking the industries to show cause why they should not be closed and subjected to pollution fines as they are neither setting up the pollution control devices nor ready to set-up the combined Effluent Treatment Plants. Accordingly, a list of 399 such industrial units to whom closure notices had been issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee was furnished to the Supreme Court. The Supeme Court has imposed a fine of Rs. 10,000/- on 151 industries out of the list of 399 industrial units who have not installed pollution control devices. The industries are to pay the fine within two weeks from the date of order i.e. December 6, 1995, failing which the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi shall implement closure of these units. The Supreme Court has further directed these units to install pollution control devices within 6 weeks. These industries include textile dyeing units, foundries, electroplating units, anodising plants, hot-mix plants, oil mills and hotels.

Safety Norms for off-shore Oil Exploration

2492. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the entry of private oil companies in upstream activities in India, there is a proposal under consideration of Government to tighten the safety norms for offshore oil exploration and development activities;

(b) whether Government are also collaborating with the norwegian Petroleum Directorate to share norway's expertise and data in offshore oil and gas exploration in order to generate similar practice in this country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the benefits which will accrue to the country from Norwegian practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Benefits of collabortion with the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate will accrue in the areas of developing capabilities in petroleum safety management systems, exploration and exploitation activities and their monitoring. It will also help in the development of regulatory mechanisms, building of an Exploration and Production data archive and data management systems pertaining to the upstream Sector.